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KING CONGRATULATES ARAFAT ON PALESTINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar has congratulated president Yasser Arafat on the occasion of the Palestine Independence Day today.

In a similar congratulatory message to Arafat, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed best wishes for Arafat's continued success in achieving progress and prosperity for the Palestinian state and people.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in a message to his counterpart Farouk Kaddoumi, said Malaysia and Palestine have always enjoyed close and cordial relations.

" May this close friendship and cooperation be further enhanced for the mutual benefit of our two peoples," he said in a statement issued by Wisma Putra. -- BERNAMA

HAK rn